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*Categorifying the tensor product of a level 1 highest weight and perfect crystal.*

The irreducible representations of the symmetric group  $S_n$  are parameterized by partitions of  $n$ . One can use the partition, viewed as being built up row by row, to construct the module algebraically, piece by piece.

Over a field of characteristic  $p$ , the irreducible representations of  $S_n$  are parameterized by the “ $p$ -regular” partitions.

However, the analogous construction of these modules fails. We give an alternate (algebraic) construction of the modules, motivated by viewing the crystal of the basic representation of  $\widehat{\mathfrak{sl}}_p$  as a limit of tensor products of level 1 perfect crystals. This construction relies on the theorem of Grojnowski relating the crystal of the basic representation to the simple  $S_n$ -modules and their behavior under restriction to  $S_{n-1}$ .

These constructions work for the level 1 cyclotomic KLR algebras of type  $A^{(1)}$ , and can be extended to other classical types. (Received September 02, 2014)